

## ELINOR WONDERS WHY

"Family Matters"

PREMISE – 5/31/2019

**Elinor's Question:** How do rabbits get different patterns?

**Logline:** Elinor goes to meet some cousins, and learns how traits can differ among members of the same species.

### Curriculum Goals:

- **LS1c:** Categorize a variety of animals and plants based on their physical characteristics [ They compare how the cousins look similar and different]
- **LS6.** Understand that individuals of the same kind of plant or animal are recognizable as similar but can also vary in many ways: Contrast individuals of the same kinds of plant and animal [ They compare how the cousins look similar and different]
- **ND.**
- **SEP: TBD at outline**

Elinor and her family are going to a family reunion. On the way to the reunion, Elinor tells her parents that she's worried that she won't know the other kids, and she won't have anyone to play with. When they arrive, they are greeted warmly by all of the family members, though Elinor stays off to one side feeling a little shy. At that moment, her cousins approach Elinor to welcome her to the reunion: cousins Danny, Nia and Alfonso (Alfie).

Elinor is amazed that these kids are her cousins: Danny is a white bunny with brown spots (or is he brown with white spots?!), Nia is an all brown bunny, and Alfonso is... a possum.



Elinor finds it super interesting that they are related, but they don't all look the same. She decides she needs more observations to try to figure it out. They take note of family members at the reunion and look at some photo albums to see pictures of other cousins, including some who are all black. Together, Elinor and her cousins ask questions and slowly deduce how each of them are related: Danny's mom is Elinor's mom's sister, but his dad is a brown bunny, which explains why Danny is mixed. Nia has the same parents but came out all brown! The family in the pictures are more distant cousins: her great grandfather was the brother of Elinor's great grandfather, and that side of the family has

**Commented [KM1]:** For the interstitial 'Dog senses' – we have designed 6 elephants – would you consider changing this to Olive's family reunion, so we can reuse those character designs? – maybe Olive can invite Elinor to come along so she's present

**Commented [2]:**  
Where does this take place? I assume a new location?  
Can we keep it to one new location if possible?

Are they taking the train? - which is fine as we will have designed and created layout for an upcoming episode

**Commented [3]:**  
How many characters are we planning on seeing?  
Besides the 3 cousins and those in the photos?

black fur. And Alfonso turns out to be adopted. Elinor learns that each of us are a different mix of our parents, and that family means more than just looking the same.

**Sara Sweetman Notes:**

Family Matters- This will be a sensitive episode but I think worth taking the extra caution and review to do it well. I heard an women speak last year who was an expert on mixed race humans and social media. I wonder if there is something to know and learn to make sure we use the right words and are supportive. The science (early genetics) can be done in an age appropriate way and I like that they will learn family is not about looking alike but how you care for each other.